

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BURLINGTON
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
November 2, 2009

The City Council of the City of Burlington held a regularly scheduled work session at the John Robert Kernodle Senior Activity Center, 1535 South Mebane Street, Burlington, N.C., on November 2, 2009, at 7 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Mayor Wall, Mayor Pro Tem Huffman, Councilmembers Butler and Sharpe

Councilmembers absent: None

Harold Owen, City Manager, present

Robert M. Ward, City Attorney, present

Jondeen D. Terry, City Clerk, present

Other Staff Present: Bob Harkrader, Bob Patterson, Linda Hollifield, Peggy Reece, Frank Hope, Nolan Kirkman, Anne Morris, Downtown Corporation, Lanny Rhew

Others Present: Richard Parker

Media Present: Michael Abernethy, Times-News

A) Street Name Change

Planning and Community Development Director Bob Harkrader said that in October 2007, Council approved a rezoning of property for First Presbyterian Church. Subsequent to approval of the rezoning for expansion of the church, Council closed a portion of Morehead Street. As a result of that, there was a small remaining part that was technically Morehead Street. Staff is asking for Council to approve changing the name of the small portion to West Maple Avenue. He explained that the Street Name Change Policy is geared toward individuals that would like to have their street name changed, but in this case there would be no address changes to property owners. Mr. Harkrader explained that the new proposed name would be clearer for fire and police personnel. The consensus was to put on the proposed name change on the Planning and Zoning Commission agenda first and then on the City Council agenda.

B) Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds

Public Works Director Nolan Kirkman explained that a limited timeframe was forcing the City to make a decision on where to spend the money assuming approval by the Alamance County Commissioners. Staff is considering resurfacing projects. One is in accordance with the conceptual approval of the downtown master plan which would basically complete Maple Avenue into the downtown area. Stamped asphalt crosswalks will be installed downtown with other amenities such as benches, signs, etc. The remainder of the \$2.8 million will primarily be spent on street resurfacing based on the survey done last year. Mr. Kirkman noted it would be a busy spring next year for resurfacing.

Bob Patterson reiterated that staff is working on a very tight timeframe.

Councilmember Butler said he would like to see money spent on downtown lighting, but staff explained that there was not time to coordinate with Duke Energy.

Councilmember Butler asked for a list of streets that would be paved, and Mr. Kirkman said that it was work in progress but that he would provide a tentative list.

Mr. Kirkman said that after studying angle parking, it was determined that a lot of blocks are fairly short and have left-turn lanes that take up the width; therefore no spaces would be gained, and some may be lost. He said one block could benefit from and gain eight spaces on Lexington Avenue and that Worth Street could benefit from parallel parking. He also proposed adding a ten-foot center lane on Main Street at the YMCA to alleviate traffic back-ups. Lastly, there would a striping change on Main Street going into downtown.

Finance Director Peggy Reece said bonds must be issued by December 31, 2009. An application of intent to use the allocated monies must be sent to the NC Office of Economic Recovery and Investment by December 15, 2009.

Awarded bids must be included with the Local Government Commission (LGC) application in order to have LGC approval at the April 2010 meeting.

Mr. Kirkman pointed out that there may be a second round of money for which the City of Burlington would apply.

Councilmember Butler asked if the City was applying for any of the unused money, and City Manager Owen stated there were shovel-ready projects. He pointed out that City must be careful about any borrowing for the water and sewer fund which could be detrimental to

the significant borrowing that are coming up for the Lake Jordan Rules.

C) Committee Reports

Councilmember Butler said the Alamance County Economic Development Committee talked about regionalism. He said that it was learned that Alamance County is getting economic development competition from Danville and that Burlington must be vigilant in its efforts.

Mayor Pro Tem Huffman said that at the Alamance County Economic Development Committee there was discussion about getting the property on White Kennel Road certified.

Mayor Wall said that the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments (PTCOG) was looking for a new executive director. The timeline is to make a selection by February or March 2010. Mayor Wall said that Mr. Randy Billings will be greatly missed and that the PTCOG would not replace Ms. Ginger Booker.

Mayor Pro Tem Huffman said that Alamance County was developing a new economic development incentive program.

D) Questions Concerning City Council Agenda

Mr. Owen stated that the agreement between the Pet Adoption and Welfare Society (PAWS) and the City of Burlington would appear on the November 3, 2009, Council agenda.

There were no questions.

E) City Manager Comments

Mr. Owen informed Council that the Piedmont Area Regional Transportation (PART) had withdrawn its rezoning request. He said a valid protest petition had been received.

Mr. Owen said the holiday parade would be held November 21, 2009, at 10 am. He said there would be a Council float and encouraged everyone to ride on it.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned.

Jondeen D. Terry
City Clerk